

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME** BOUNDARY MARKERS ALONG THE MASON-DIXON LINE (THEMATIC GROUP)  
 HISTORIC (Mason and Dixon's) West Line, 43rd Mile Stone  
 AND/OR COMMON  
 Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. 43 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 46)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)  
 STREET & NUMBER off east side of Mitchell Road, MD/Ridge Road, PA, between Harris Mill Road, MD/T548, PA  
 CITY, TOWN Gersuch Mills  VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MD: 2 / PA: 19  
 STATE Maryland COUNTY MD: Baltimore / PA: York

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS N/A	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: state boundary marker

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY** (monument only)  
 NAME State of Maryland/Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
 (see Thematic Group NR nomination form) Telephone #:  
 STREET & NUMBER  
 CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE, zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION** N/A  
 (see surrounding property ownership list) Liber #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Folio #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
 STREET & NUMBER  
 CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE Baltimore County Historic Sites Inventory  
 DATE BA-1562 entered 3/8/79  
 \_\_\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_\_\_ STATE  COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Baltimore County Office of Planning, County Courts Building  
 CITY, TOWN Towson STATE Maryland  
 (Also see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED (site) DATE <u>1902</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

By the time of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary, the original Mason and Dixon milestone of 1766 and site marking the 43rd mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland had disappeared. The present monument is an original Mason and Dixon milestone of 1767, brought from Washington County in 1902 and set at a higher more suitable site slightly eastward, but on the survey line, thus appropriately maintaining the visual and actual integrity of the West Line.

The area here is rural, gently rolling farmland, sparsely settled. The site is about 1 mile north-northwest of the crossroads settlement of Gorsuch Mills, Maryland; about 2 miles due south of the town of Stewartstown, Pennsylvania; about 700' east of the main road, in the north edge of a scraggly east-west hedgerow separating the Riefle field on the south from Blevins peach orchard, unfenced on the north. It cannot be seen from the main road, nor easily from the orchard service lane nearby.

The replacement milestone, though optimistically set at a new site believed preferable for its preservation in 1902, is only in fair condition, chipped from lack of protection from farm machinery and standing only about 8" above ground level, neglected over time, and the top further damaged in 1933 when the USC&GS triangulation station disk was set into the apex. As with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments: it is an embellished, squared oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England. Although about 4' long originally, it was set to stand about 1½' above ground, and was surrounded by a concrete collar below ground. It now measures about 11¼" wide by about 7½" high above ground on the north side facing Pennsylvania; the P is discernible but all other embellishments are gone. The east side measures about 11" wide by about 5" above ground; all fluting and margins are gone. The south side facing Maryland measures about 11" wide by about 10" high above ground; the M is clear; the circle panel barely discernible; and the fluting and margins are gone. The west side measures about 11½" wide by about 9" high above ground; all fluting and margins are gone. The top, rather than rising another 2" to an apex is now a depression, with no planes or fluting remaining, and the metal USC&GS disk cemented into the center.

(For an additional description of the original Mason and Dixon milestones and method of setting, see the NR Thematic Group nomination form.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) boundary surveying
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1767 (first set 1902) ~~BUILDER/ARCHITECT~~  SURVEYORS Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 43(46) is an original Mason and Dixon milestone of 1767, brought from Washington County in 1902 at the time of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary to replace the original which by then had disappeared. Set on the Line at a new site nearby to the east, it is primarily significant as one of the 111 milestones still standing along the West Line, as well as one of the 10 along the Baltimore/York county boundary. As an individual monument, it is also notable as a visible example of our diminishing Colonial heritage.

(For a statement of significance of the Baltimore/York county marker series, see the capsule summary sheet. For a statement of significance of the entire West Line and markers, see the Thematic Group NR nomination form).

## HISTORY AND SUPPORT

(See Thematic Group NR nomination form, Item 8)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See National Register thematic group nomination form

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

UTM: 18.36310.439779

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore

STATE Pennsylvania COUNTY York

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Alice Martin (volunteer historic sites surveyor)

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Maryland Geological Survey

DATE

2/10/80 (site surveyed)

STREET & NUMBER

14308 Mount Avenue

TELEPHONE

301/472-2128

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Maryland 21131

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

BA-1562

MASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 43(46)  
NORRISVILLE QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA  
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
1957 PHOTO REV. 1974 SCALE: 1"=200'

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



5663 / SW  
(GLEN ROCK)

76°37'30" 361000m E. 2320 000 FEET (PA.) YORK 20 MI. WINTERSTOWN 6.3 MI. 364 35'

39°45' 4401000m N.

150 000 FEET (PA.)

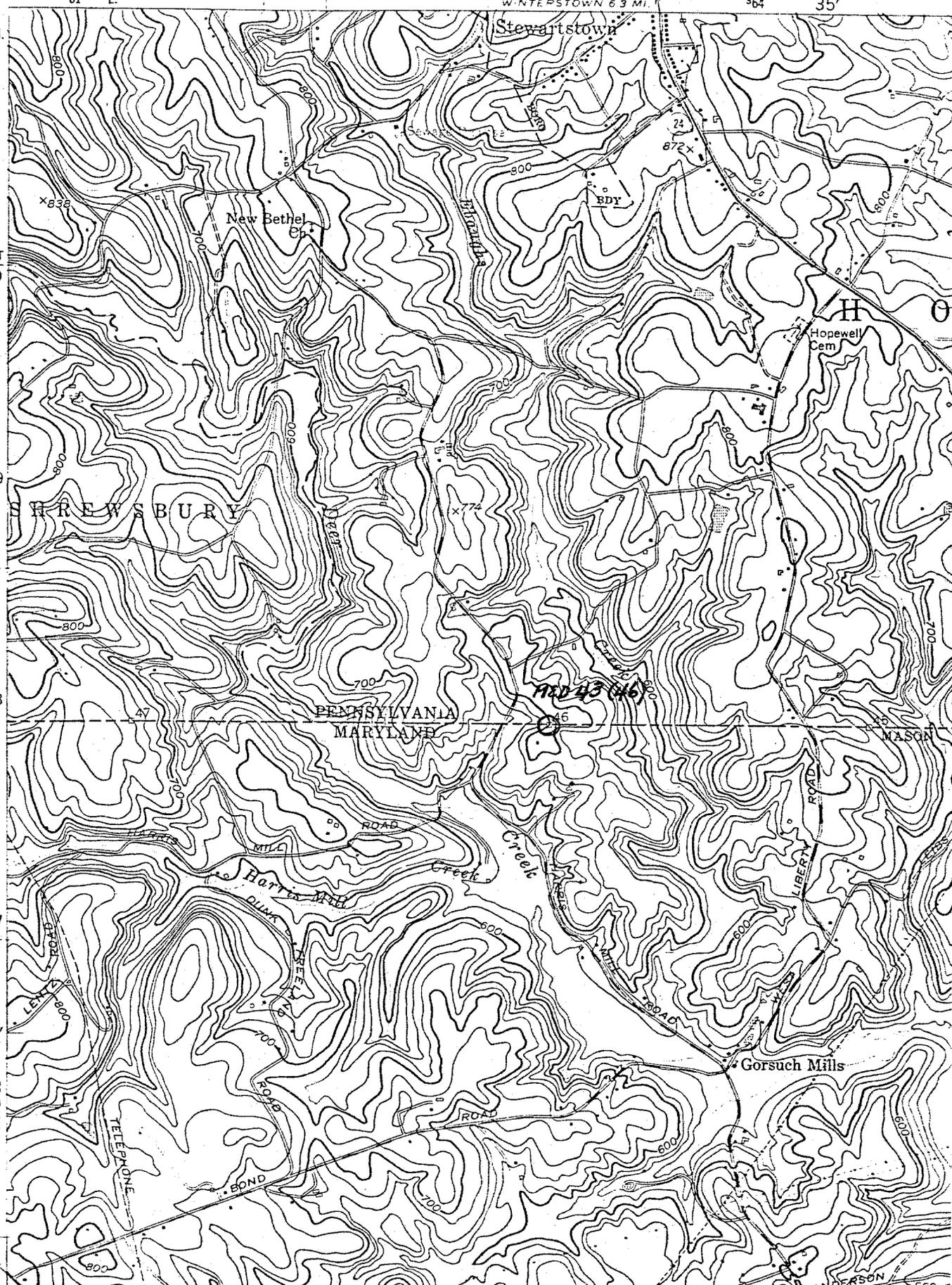
4399

4398

4397

42'30"

YORK, PA. 20 MI.  
1.7 MI. TO INTERSTATE 83





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MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE; MILESTONE NO. 43(46). SECORNER (H/--)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 2/10/80 (1980.6.13)



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NASCON EDIXON'S WEST LINE; MILESTONE NO. 43 (46) ~~NE~~ NW CORNER (P/-) (P/ER)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 2/10/80 (1980.6.10)